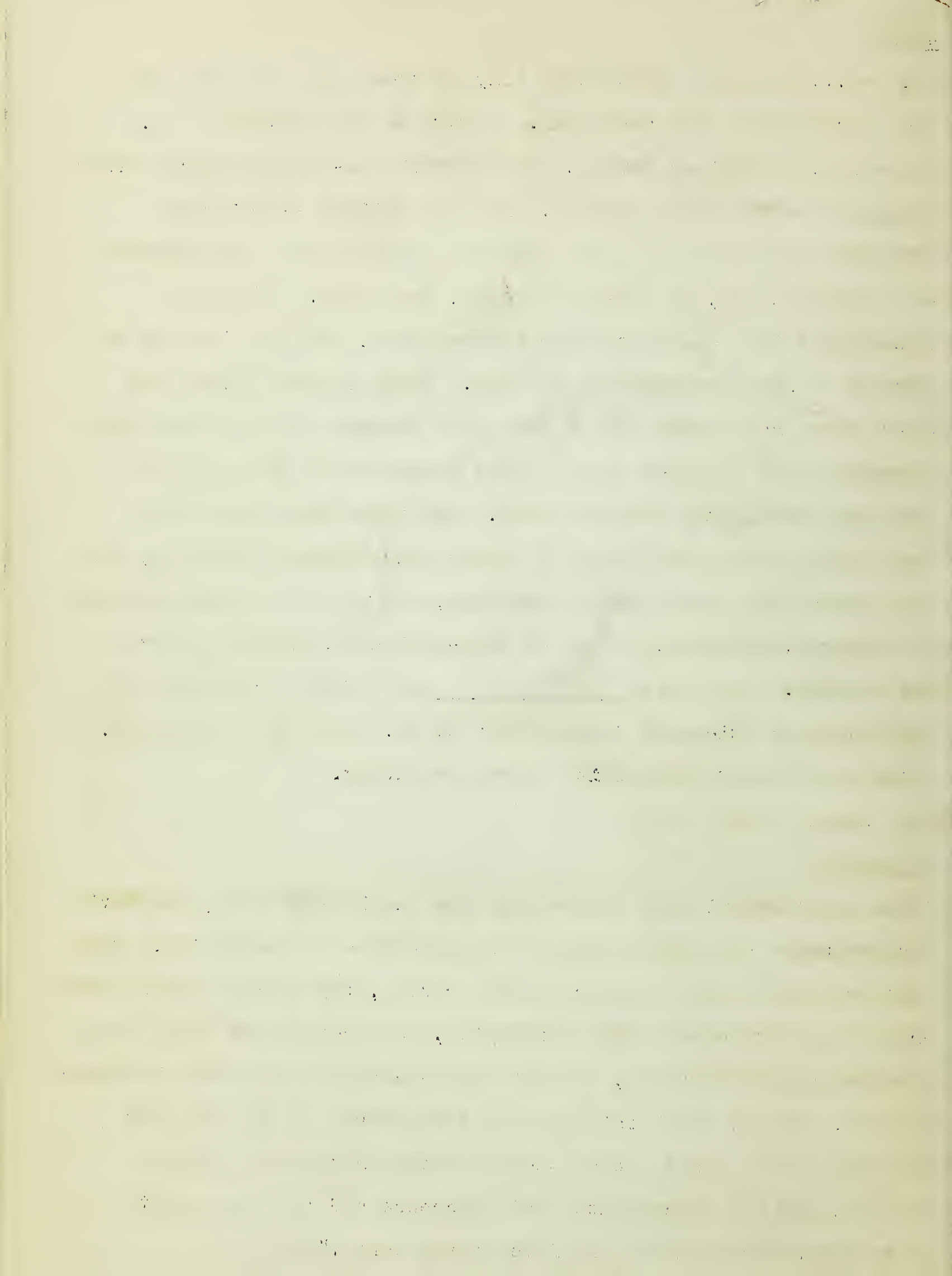


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WLW
CINCINNATI

FORTUNES WASHED AWAY

1:15
P.M. - E.S.T.

A SERIES OF DRAMATIZATIONS OF BETTER LAND USE.

No. 158 May 3, 1941 "MACK HOPSON--SOIL BUILDER"

ORGAN THEME: DEEP RIVER.

VOICE

We took it for granted that land was everlasting;

We said ownership of the land insured security.

Tools would wear out, men would die --

But the land would remain.

ORGAN: ABRUPT DISCORD.

ANNOUNCER (cold)

Fortunes Washed Away!

ORGAN: DEEP RIVER.

ANNOUNCER

The fragrant breath of spring has come to Southern Kentucky, the red-bud and the dogwood are in bloom. And on the main highway between Cadiz and Gracey, sheep loll in the shade of a clump of trees in the corner of a large pasture, fields of alfalfa border on fields of bluegrass. On this farm, soon, a tractor-drawn mower will clip weeds in a lespedeza meadow, tractor-drawn cultivators will ply the long rows of corn, curving gracefully with the contour of the land. Hundreds of white-faced cattle grazing on a hillside covered with Korean, a charming homesite up the lane from the highway -- these are the landmarks that are the setting of the 158th consecutive episode of "Fortunes Washed Away."

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

NARRATOR

That's Mack Hopson's farm. And my name's Charlie Whitaker -- superintendent of the CCC camp at Princeton, Kentucky. I used to be around Trigg County a lot -- funny thing, too. Most folks down there don't even know how Trigg County got its name.

Mrs. Hopson -- that's Mack's wife -- Mrs. Hopson does, though....

WIFE

I ought to. I was born and raised here. Trigg County was named after Colonel Stephen Trigg who came to the district of Kentucky from Virginia in 1779 as a member of the Land Commission. He was killed, I'm sorry to say, fighting Indians at Blue Lick about three years later. Well, it took pioneers like him to make Kentucky.

ORGAN: MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME.

NARRATOR

Kentucky is a great state, and it needs men like Mack Hopson. I don't guess many of you have ever flown in an airplane over Kentucky -- but if you ever have, you can see the work that soil erosion has done. It's been pretty tough on Kentucky. That's why I say we need men like Mack Hopson. He's a soil builder. I like to talk about him -- maybe you've noticed that. Anyhow, sometimes folks say, "Sure Mack Hopson is a big operator. How about the little fellow?"

HOPSON

Yes, I suppose they do, Charlie.

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NARRATOR

Well, I've got an answer for them, Mack. I say that Mack Hopson is a soil builder. And all of us need to know more about how to build soil.

HOPSON

I'll agree with that 100 percent. And I know the way to do it.

NARRATOR

And that way....

HOPSON

Stuff on the ground.

ORGAN: MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME.

NARRATOR

Lime, phosphate, manure and grass -- those are what make up "stuff on the ground." At least, that's Mack Hopson's idea. Anyhow, it all started when Mack Hopson got out of the army, back in 1918 -- long before we had the CCC. (FADE)

SOUND: Pots and pans rattling...

WIFE

I'll have dinner ready in about an hour, Mack.

HOPSON

It can't be too soon. Man alive, I'm hungry for some of your good old home cooking.

WIFE

It won't be very much.

HOPSON

Don't worry about that. I've just got about one good dime to my name, but we'll get along somehow. One good dime...and a wife.

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WIFE

You ought to be able to get a job before long. With your record as a mechanic, and with your experience in the aviation corps, you should....

HOPSON

Georgia....

WIFE

Yes?

HOPSON

Georgia, I've been thinking. I don't want to be a mechanic all my life.

WIFE

Oh. Any plans?

HOPSON

I want to go back to where I started as a boy. I want to go back to the farm.

WIFE

I know, but...

HOPSON

I know what's on your mind. You're wondering where we'll get the money.

WIFE

That's it exactly, Mack. They're not giving away farms these days.

HOPSON

There's a little farm over near Gracey that I can get on credit. Of course, it isn't the best farm in the world, but beggars can't be choosers. I've got a hunch I can take that washed out little farm and build it up -- just by putting stuff on the ground.

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NARRATOR

Well sir, Mack Hopson wasn't a big operator at the start, but he always has been a soil builder. He knew he couldn't make any money on land that grew 15 bushels of corn to the acre. But he figured that he could make money on cattle, and cattle took grass. One day....

SOUND: Loud clatter and chugging of motor...

WIFE

Mack Hopson, what in the world!

HOPSON (chuckling)

Doesn't look like much, does it?

WIFE

What are you going to do with -- of all things -- a steam shovel?

HOPSON

Fill in gullies. This is an old discarded shovel I'm going to patch up. It ought to hold together for awhile. No sir, Georgia... you're going to see a changed farm in a few years. After I get those gullies filled in I'm going to plaster that field with manure and sow Korean lespedeza. That'll build up the land so's we can get bluegrass eventually.

WIFE

Well, maybe so -- but they always told me that bluegrass won't grow around here. They say it just isn't bluegrass land.

HOPSON

If you put the stuff on the ground you'll get bluegrass, and that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before. And I'm going to graze it, too. (CHUCKLES)

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WIFE

What's funny now -- besides that dilapidated old wreck you call a steam shovel?

HOPSON

I was just thinking -- it's like the old story, "which came first, the chicken or the egg." You can't get grass without manure, and you can't get manure without grass. So -- I've got to work out a systematic grazing program that will put the stuff on the ground, and yet not overgraze and start gullies all over again. I don't want this little old farm to become another Macedonia.

WIFE

Macedonia -- I don't get the connection.

HOPSON

I don't mean Greece. Haven't you ever heard of Macedonia, Kentucky?

WIFE

Oh, now, come to think of it, I remember hearing my father mention it. Isn't it over in Christian County?

HOPSON

It was in Christian County. There's nothing there now. The same old story -- neglect of the land, one-crop farming, and now a ghost town, with gullies all around in every direction as far as the eye can see. And it all could have been prevented if those farmers had been soil builders instead of soil robbers. I'm going to build this farm up -- with stuff on the ground.

ORGAN: Sneak in MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME.

NARRATOR

Stuff on the ground -- that's Mack Hopson's slogan -- lime, phosphate, manure and grass. His systematic soil building has brought results, too. One time we went to see him about signing a co-operative agreement with the Cadiz CCC camp, like so many other farmers had done -- but there wasn't anything we could do to improve his soil building program. Mack Hopson already had taken care of his land.

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

ANNOUNCER

That is the true story of Mack Hopson, of Trigg County, Kentucky -- a soil builder. And now, once again we turn to the United States Department of Agriculture, and speaking for the Soil Conservation Service here is Ewing Jones.

JONES

Thanks, _____. Just one final word about Mack Hopson. He is a big operator, now. He operates 1700 acres, which is quite a record when you consider that he started farming with "one good dime", as he puts it.

ANNOUNCER

A real success story, in other words.

JONES

Yes, and grazing is what has done it. Of all that 1,700 acres, he'll have only 50 acres of tobacco and corn this year. The rest of the land will be in alfalfa, bluegrass, Korean lespedeza, barley, some wheat, Balbo rye, domestic ryegrass and white clover. Mr. Hopson wants grazing and he puts "stuff on the ground" to get it. In fact, he says that if he were unable to buy cattle, he would let other farmers pasture his land free of charge.

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ANNOUNCER

Then I think we ought to take our hats off to Mack Hopson, soil builder.

JONES

By all means. And I want to take our hats off to a group of other Kentucky farmers, _____, but first, here's a copy of a new bulletin just off the press. It's called "New Landmarks of Soil Conservation" and as you can see, it's well illustrated and right to the point. And of course you know, _____, that to get copies of this new bulletin, "New Landmarks" all you need to do is to write to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio.

ANNOUNCER

Say, Ewing...that looks like it has plenty of information in it.

JONES

It has....thumb through the pages.

ANNOUNCER

Let's see. Here's a section on sheet erosion, and one on gullying. And here's where the information really begins, with a section on contours and cover crops. Here's information about terracing, here's information about crop rotations, and over here it talks about strip cropping, pastures, farm forest management....

JONES

Keep going.

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem.

The second part is devoted to a detailed analysis of the results.

The third part is devoted to a discussion of the conclusions.

The fourth part is devoted to a discussion of the future work.

The fifth part is devoted to a discussion of the references.

The sixth part is devoted to a discussion of the appendix.

The seventh part is devoted to a discussion of the bibliography.

The eighth part is devoted to a discussion of the index.

The ninth part is devoted to a discussion of the table of contents.

The tenth part is devoted to a discussion of the list of figures.

The eleventh part is devoted to a discussion of the list of tables.

The twelfth part is devoted to a discussion of the list of references.

The thirteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the list of appendices.

The fourteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the list of figures.

The fifteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the list of tables.

The sixteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the list of references.

The seventeenth part is devoted to a discussion of the list of appendices.

The eighteenth part is devoted to a discussion of the list of figures.

ANNOUNCER

Wildlife, soil conservation districts. Friends, this bulletin "New Landmarks" is well-illustrated and remember, all you have to do to get a copy is to write to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio and ask for the bulletin "New Landmarks." You'll get your copy by return mail. The address again, Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio. Now, Ewing....how about this hat's off business.

JONES

Oh, yes....a salute to the farmers in Southern Logan County....the first in Kentucky to form a soil conservation district, and the first to be officially organized. The board of supervisors are now busy with their work program -- and their names are E. C. Shelton, of Russellville, chairman, and B. T. Fugate, Russellville; Irl D. Scott, Auburn; E. L. Parker, Olmstead; and J. R. Young, Adairville. Kentucky has now voted in thirteen soil conservation districts. Oh, and speaking of soil conservation districts,

ANNOUNCER

Which you were...

JONES

Here's a word that I'm sure Bill Nye would want me to pass on to the farmers of Noble County, Indiana. Bill is the County Agricultural Agent, and he says that Noble County farmers will vote May the 8th -- that's next Thursday -- to decide whether or not they want to form a soil conservation district. So that's the word to farmers of Noble County, Indiana -- next Thursday is the day to turn out at the polls. Bill Nye, or Ted Hile, the county Triple-A chairman, or Superintendent C. E. McKibbin of the Kendallville CCC camp can give you the polling places.

ANNOUNCER

And so one more county joins the march in the parade to form soil conservation districts.

JONES

Right. And _____, I've got a little present for you.

ANNOUNCER

Fine! All gifts cheerfully accepted, and credit given.

JONES

In this case, credit goes to Fred Geiger, a Noble County farmer -- and this present is a bottle of peppermint oil -- a prize-winning bottle at the Northern Indiana Muck Crops Show last year. Peppermint oil, I might add, is supposed to have saved his life when he was 18 months old -- but that's getting ahead of our story. Next week, anyhow, "Fortunes Washed Away" will bring you the story of Fred Geiger, and the story of the mint industry in Indiana. And now, the "Eleventh Commandment."

ORGAN: DEEP RIVER.

ANNOUNCER

"Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, so that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or be destroyed from off the face of the earth."

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

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JONES (on cue)

Remember neighbors, if you want a copy of the illustrated bulletin, "New Landmarks", just send a letter or a penny postcard to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio. This is Ewing Jones, speaking for the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture -- and goodbye until next week at this same time, when we'll bring you another story of "Fortunes Washed Away."

